

HOME MISSION WORK FOR FOREIGN-SPEAKING PEOPLE.

We give below, with a very few minor changes where they have seemed called for, the greater part of a most valuable and interesting circular recently issued by our Assembly's Committee of Home Missions. The facts which it contains are of great practical importance. They appeal strongly to the heart of the Church. In the awakening of our church to its duty to the foreign-speaking people amongst us a call is given to enter in and occupy one of the most needy and promising fields ever presented to us. The results already accomplished, in our merely initial efforts, indicate the rich harvest that is in store if the field be properly covered.

"Hitherto the people of the South have regarded the immigration problem as something peculiar to the North, the East and the West, for the great majority of the immigrants formerly settled in those sections, but no longer is this the case. More foreigners are in the Southern States than is generally known. Within three years 15,000 have come to Norfolk; in Tampa there are 15,000 Cubans and 10,000 Italians; in New Orleans there are thousands of Italians, Spaniards, Syrians and others, and their number will be multiplied many times once the Isthmian Canal bears on its bosom the vessels of the nations. So it will be in Galveston, which is now rivaling New York as a port of entry for immigrants, in Mobile, in Pensacola and the Gulf Coast country. In some Texas counties the court records are kept in German; in others the Spanish language only is heard. In Birmingham and the furnace districts of Alabama 'tongues are confused like unto when the tower of Babel was building.' This is only the beginning of what is to be; and realizing that this is not a future, but a present duty, the Assembly's Committee is endeavoring, as far as possible with the means at hand, to give these multitudes the Gospel in their own tongue. An outline of our church's work follows:

"**Mexican.**—Here is one of the brightest spots in missionary endeavor that is to be found anywhere. On July 30, 1908, the Synod of Texas erected the Texas-Mexican Presbytery, with seventeen churches and about 1,000 communicants. This Presbytery is coterminous with the Synod of Texas, and there are more than 300,000 Mexicans within its bounds, and many thousands each year are turning their faces this way from old Mexico. The influence of our missionaries in Mexico and of the longer established mission there, is felt in the Texas work, which began with a consecrated Mexican elder who had been received into the church by Dr. Graybill. Several of the native pastors now laboring in Mexico were trained by Dr. Pratt in Texas; thus there has been a constant exchange of workers on the two sides of the Rio Grande. Engaged in the Mexican work in Texas are three American evangelists—Rev. W. S. Scott, our first missionary on the American side to the Mexicans; Rev. R. D. Campbell, with Mrs. Campbell, formerly a missionary in Mexico, and Rev. C. R. Womeldorf, who, with Mrs. Womeldorf, was for some years a missionary in Brazil. There are also three Mexican pastors and three Mexican evan-

gelists. Each year an average of 100 are received into the church on profession of their faith in Christ.

"**French.**—In the State of Louisiana there are no fewer than 250,000 French-speaking people, most of them descendants of the original settlers. There are eight whole counties without a Protestant church, and several with only one. In the city of New Orleans there are fewer than 4,000 Presbyterians among 181,000 Roman Catholics. We have one French church in New Orleans, of which Rev. P. Ph. Briol is minister. Rev. M. R. Paradis is presbyterial evangelist of the French-speaking people in the Teche section of the State.

"**Italian.**—About 50,000 Italians are located in Louisiana, all Romanists. In New Orleans we have one Italian church of more than eighty communicants, with Rev. Christopher Russo as pastor. His work is abundantly successful and indicates what can be done. A new mission among the Italians has just been opened at Ensley, Ala., in the furnace district, where there is a colony of 15,000. Already an aggressive work is being conducted by the pastor, Rev. C. Barana, by means of kindergarten, day schools, stereopticon lectures and evangelistic tent meetings. The first to enter this promising field, our missionary, is fast gaining a hearing, and the outlook is most encouraging.

"**German.**—Rev. Louis Voss and Rev. Jacob Meier are pastors of our two German Presbyterian Churches in New Orleans. These began as missionary enterprises, but are now self-supporting churches, contributing to all the causes of the church. Mr. Voss recently wrote: 'The history of these German churches points out the only successful method of reaching foreigners. Give them ministers of their own nationality, aiding them financially at first, and in due time the church will be Americanized.'

"**Cubans.**—The Cuban colony at Tampa, Fla., now numbers about 15,000, and the call was urgent that our church undertake missionary work among them. Rev. P. H. Hensley, formerly a missionary to Cuba, has been placed in charge of this new mission field, and under his wise guidance we may confidently expect most encouraging results.

"**Bohemians.**—Rev. Frank Uherka is pastor of a colony of Bohemians near Petersburg, Va. He was recently ordained and licensed by East Hanover Presbytery and set apart as pastor for his own people. Several other colonies of Bohemians are employed in the mines in the mountains of West Virginia and other sections. The difficulty in reaching these people is to find one of their own number who is qualified to act as spiritual under-shepherd.

"**Indians.**—This is the oldest missionary work of our church, being for many years classified as foreign. We have nineteen churches and ten pastors among the Choctaws and Chickasaws, and about 700 communicants embraced in Indian Presbytery, which includes all our Indian work in Oklahoma. There are day schools at Antlers, Chish Ok Tock and Cold Springs; at Goodland School and Orphanage about 150 Indian children, mostly orphans, are being trained for citizenship and for Christ, and at Durant Presbyterian College about 200 boys and girls receive a higher education.